



**A**s a steward of our nation's coastal and marine environments, NOAA addresses immediate and long-term environmental threats through its Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R). Scientists are on call around-the-clock to provide the U.S. Coast Guard and other emergency responders with critical information to help minimize environmental damage caused by oil and hazardous chemical spills. Environmental experts assess ecosystems compromised by historic or ongoing contamination and work with other organizations to conduct remediation, restoration, and monitoring of critical natural resources.

### Protecting and Restoring Hawaii's Coastal and Marine Areas

NOAA trust resources in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands include Hawaiian monk seals, humpback whales, coral reefs, and sandy beaches. Coral reefs alone contribute more than \$360 million per year to the Hawaiian economy through marine-related tourism and commercial and recreational fishing. Location of the Hawaiian Islands results in heavy vessel traffic, increasing potential for ship groundings and spills. Other threats to natural resources include oil refineries, agriculture, shipyards, and pollution from past military activities. The state map on the reverse page shows key response and restoration activities in the past year.

### Emergency Response

In January 2007, NOAA provided on-scene scientific and technical support to the U.S. Coast Guard for the response to the Chinese-flagged freighter *Tong Cheng*, which requested permission to enter U.S. waters after sustaining damage. NOAA's oil trajectories for potential spill scenarios, assessment of the chemical hazard, and spot weather forecasts were critical in deciding to allow the *Tong Cheng* into U.S. waters for repairs and ensuring that minimal pollutants were released from the vessel.

### Assessment and Restoration

On February 2, 2005, the bulk carrier M/V *Cape Flattery* grounded in coral reef habitat off Barbers Point (Kalaeloa), Oahu. Actions to free the ship and prevent an oil spill lasted for nine days and caused widespread injury to coral reef habitats and reef biota. NOAA worked with other trustees and responsible parties to have 45 tons of rubble removed and over 2,800 corals reattached to stabilize the reef area during the emergency restoration phase.



Restored coral near M/V Cape Flattery Ship Grounding, Barber's Point

### Marine Debris

NOAA is assessing the distribution and abundance of marine debris in the main Hawaiian Islands. The surveys of Kauai, Molokai, Lanai, Maui, Oahu, and the Big Island are now complete. Over 700 sites have been reported, with an estimated 129 tons (258,000 pounds) of debris. A

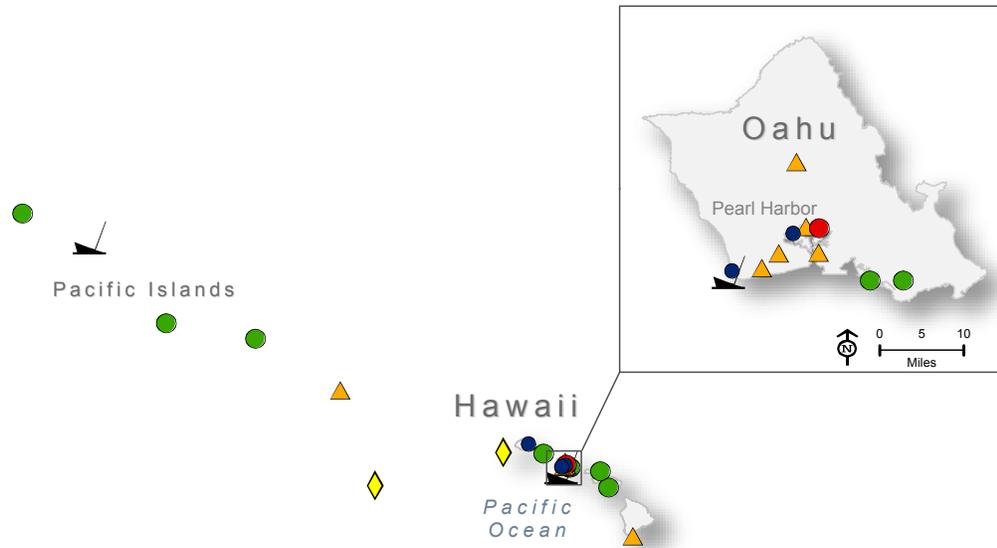


Marine debris cleanup activities in Hawaii

cleanup of Oahu removed over 16 tons of nets and other debris; cleanup of the other islands will be undertaken by NOAA, state, and community partners.

### Research

NOAA collaborates with other federal, state, and local programs to develop innovative approaches to protecting marine and estuarine environments through research and synthesis of information. The Coastal Response Research Center (CRRCC) brings together the resources of a research-oriented university and the field expertise of OR&R to conduct and oversee basic and applied research, conduct outreach, and encourage strategic partnerships in spill response, assessment, and restoration.



- ▲ Hazardous Waste Site
- Spill Case
- Restoration Site
- ◆ Emergency Response Support
- Marine Debris
- ▲ Ship Grounding

---

*NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration—Protecting our Coastal Environment*

---

**For further information about NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration,  
 please call (301) 713-2989 or visit our Web site at  
[response.restoration.noaa.gov](http://response.restoration.noaa.gov)**

